# The Corps
# of
# Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

# Organization, Employment and Characteristics of Light Aid Detachments, Armoured Brigade Workshops, and Infantry Brigade Workshops

## 2 Canadian Corps Precis

## 1943

The RCEME Heritage Archives

# Organization, Employment and Characteristics
# of
# Light Aid Detachments, Armoured Brigade Workshops, and Infantry Brigade Workshops

A precis given to liaison officers and staff learners
at 2 Canadian Corps Deputy Director of Mechanical Engineering
at a lecture on 8 July 1943

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## Editor's Note

This document describes the method of operation of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the early period of the Second World War. It predates the formation of RCEME by about nine months, but the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps (Engineering) used the same doctrine at the time. REME had already been formed. Note the illustration at the end of the paper. There are some inconsistencies, but they exist in the original. Keep in mind that this is précis at Corps level and they would have had relatively interest in fourth line.

The paper demonstrates that, apart from some minor changes in terminology, the EME doctrine has not really changed substantially in the past 60 years. To accommodate a modern audience, some explanations of terms have been placed in square brackets [ ]. The editor thanks Maryanne Lang for her assistance in retyping a very old and badly faded original manuscript.

Doug Knight
November 2007

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# The Echelon System of Repair

## General

Any organization for the repair of material must operate on a system if it is to function efficiently, and the system adopted for a repair organization must be suited to the conditions under which the organization has to operate.

The [Corps of] Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was formed for the purpose of carrying out repair work on army equipment, and its primary duty is to repair equipment made unserviceable through active operations in the field. For this reason, the system considered to be the most suitable for use in the field has been adopted as the general repair system for REME as a whole.

In order to carry out repairs, a workshop unit of any nature must have available the men, the tools, and the stores required for the particular class of repairs it is formed to deal with. Further, workshop facilities must either be taken to the equipment that needs repair, or the equipment must be brought to the workshop.

Under active service conditions, the process of taking heavy equipment long distances to a workshop for repair is a difficult one, and for this reason, repair units are required to accompany field force units during operations. It is thus essential that some field force workshop units shall be mobile. In order to attain this, it is necessary that the equipment should be sufficiently light and compact to meet field conditions. The degree of mobility conferred on a given workshop unit automatically limits its repair capacity. However desirable it may be for a workshop unit to be able to undertake repair of any kind, and also keep up with its formation, it is not possible to cope with both these requirements. As a result the type of repairs undertaken by mobile workshop units must of necessity be limited by the requirements of mobility.

Present-day army equipment is largely composed of assemblies fitted together to form major items of equipment. The repair of a piece of equipment very often necessitates the repair or replacement of one or more of its constituent assemblies. Normally the tools required to replace an unserviceable assembly with a new or reconditioned assembly are smaller, and hence are more portable, than those required to take the assembly apart and repair the damaged item or items in the assembly. Further, it is usually quicker to replace assemblies than to repair them. Again, when reconditioning assemblies it is frequently quicker to replace the damaged item by a new or reconditioned item than to repair or recondition the damaged item.

## The Four Echelons of Repair

On account of the above considerations, the REME repair organization has been divided into four progressive stages or “echelons”. A workshop unit, which is formed to carry out repair work within the scope of a given echelon, is equipped with personnel and tools required for dealing with the particular the type of work involved in that stage or echelon, and is either provided with, or should have easy access to, the stores likely to be required by it when working normal conditions.

Normally in active operations it is more convenient for a third echelon repair unit to be further from the front than a second echelon repair unit, similarly for a second echelon repair unit to be further from the front than a first echelon unit, but this does not preclude the reversal of the relative geographical positions of some of these units. Any repair appropriate to a particular echelon can be carried out anywhere in the field. It must be clearly understood that the term "echelon" has no geographical significance whatever, but has a time significance, in that the typical first echelon job takes less time to complete than the typical second echelon job, and so on.

The four echelons of the repair organization have been selected on the basis of the normal type of repair in each echelon, and are as shown below:

> **First Echelon (minor repairs)** is the first stage of repair of equipment. In this stage, work is limited to minor repairs, replacement, and adjustments, which can be carried out in unit lines with the tools provided in the 1098 equipment of the unit, and with the tools of the REME personnel attached to the unit.
>
> **Second Echelon (replacement of assemblies)** is the second stage of repair of equipment. In this stage, the main function is the replacement of defective assemblies by new or reconditioned assemblies. In addition, repairs are carried out to certain assemblies, and to items not dealt with as assemblies, so far as they can be completed satisfactorily in the time available, with the equipment and personnel available in the workshop. Generally an assembly should only be repaired in second echelon when it can be repaired quicker and more satisfactorily than it can be replaced.
>
> **Third Echelon (repair of assemblies)** is a stage in which the main function is complementary to that of second echelon. The work is mainly the repair of assemblies that have been replaced by second echelon workshops. The repair of an assembly is normally by third echelon workshops. The repair of an assembly is normally carried out by replacing the defective components or items of the assembly with new or reconditioned components. The repair of defective components is also undertaken in third echelon workshops when the repairs involved do not require extensive or elaborate plant. Third echelon work also includes the replacement of certain assemblies, which are not conveniently replaceable in second echelon workshops on account of the time, labour, or special apparatus required.

As a result of the above classification of repairs and the equipping of field force workshop units accordingly, the units formed to carry our first echelon work are sufficiently mobile to keep pace with the moves of the formation units whose equipment they service. Similarly, a second or third echelon workshop unit is sufficiently mobile to keep up with the formation it services, while a fourth echelon workshop unit, which requires by the nature of its work to be static, is located in the base area and is a base unit.

In this Corps, we are primarily interest in first and second echelon units only. is the unit repair tradesmen, assisted by a first echelon REME unit, i.e., LAD type "A", "B", "C" or "D" or a LAA [light anti-aircraft] Workshop. Second echelon is either an Infantry or Armoured Brigade Workshop, or a Corps Troops Workshop. Their principles are identical, but their employment varies.

The war establishment (WE), the equipment, and the stores provided for a REME unit are based upon the type of work intended to be carried out by the unit concerned. As a result, the output from that unit will be most easily obtained by limiting its work to that type for which it was designed. Thus a second echelon REME unit should be confined to carrying out second echelon repairs. If it attempts to carry out other types of work, e.g., third echelon work, its output is likely to suffer.

It may be found that, as a result of certain local conditions, repairs to equipment carried out in a workshop can only be accomplished by diverging from the normal scope of work for which the workshop was formed. The factor necessitating such a divergence must be removed as quickly as possible to enable the workshop unit to operate again within its normal scope of work. A typical example of the above is that of a second echelon unit which is forced to undertake the repair of assemblies because spare assemblies have ceased to be immediately available. The cure is to make spare assemblies available, not to increase the workshop facilities so that assembly repair can be undertaken, since there should be already in the field a workshop specially constructed to repair the assemblies in a more economical and satisfactory manner than could be attained by the second echelon workshop.

## Workshop Organization

### General

In order to carry out the repair functions outlined for the four echelons, personnel and equipment have been grouped in detachments and workshops, the WEs and 1098's [listing of entitlement to equipment] of which are based on the estimated amount of work that will develop at each level in operations.

In keeping with the modern principles of standardization, the types of workshop units are kept to a minimum, and where possible workshop personnel and equipment structures are built from standard components or "bricks". LADs are too small to consist of separate components, but four types are available to service all units or formations for which individual workshop service is considered necessary. However, second, third, and fourth echelon workshops are made up of standard bricks, which are interchangeable in workshops of the same type. That is, the armament brick in the infantry brigade workshop in 4th Canadian Armoured Division is an exact duplicate of the armament brick in the Infantry Brigade Workshop in 5th Canadian Armoured Division. This makes possible the rapid construction of ad-hoc workshops to meet unusual conditions, and the quick relief of a workshop temporarily overloaded in any particular department by the dispatch of a suitable brick from a lightly loaded workshop.

Replacement parts are either held by LADs or the units they serve in the form of FAMTO's (First Aid Mechanical Transport Outfits). Workshops have a stores brick, which is part of the workshop organization, but is manned by trained Ordnance personnel. The scaling of the FAMTO and stores brick is such that the majority of replacements can be made from stock until normal demands are filled through field park [RCOC stores unit] channels, which may be ten days to two weeks in exceptional circumstances.

LADs are not on the WE of all units. Commanders, REME, (CREME) must therefore allot LADs that are already attached to another unit, to serve units to which LADs are not attached. Such allotment is in no sense permanent, but must be flexibly employed as the amount of work going into the various LADs varies, and the geographical locations alter.

Similarly in an armoured division, there are two second echelon workshops – an armoured and an infantry brigade workshop, but the division artillery and division troops must also be provided with second echelon facilities. It is mainly for this reason that the brigade workshops, are NOT brigade troops, but division troops. CREMEs must allot second echelon facilities to the division troops that are not in brigades.

## LADs and Light Anti-aircraft (LAA) Workshops Operating Procedures

Wherever the term LAD is used, the same will apply to LAA Workshops.

LAD procedures will, in some respects, vary according to whether the LAD is operating in static conditions, or is engaged in active operations against the enemy. Details or procedures will also depend on the type of unit or formation served, as for instance whether an LAD is attached to an infantry brigade and serves the headquarters staff and the units of the brigade, or is attached to and works for a single unit, such as a field regiment, Royal Artillery.

It is, therefore, impossible to specify procedures that will cover all details in all circumstances, and items not specified because of necessary variations between units must be covered by mutual arrangement between the EME [Electrical and Mechanical Engineer] in charge of the LAD or the EME responsible for supervising the LAD, and the CO [commanding officer] of each unit served. All details will be based on the procedures described, which will be followed as far as possible.

## Definitions

### EME in charge of LAD

Where reference is made to the EME in charge of an LAD, the reference will apply equally to a WO [warrant officer] or senior NCO non-commissioned officer] in charge of an LAD or equivalent, unless the contrary is specifically stated.

### Parent Unit

The unit that an LAD serves and to which it is attached will be known as the parent unit of the LAD. Reference to the parent unit will apply equally when the LAD is attached to the headquarters of a formation, in which case the headquarters unit itself will be the parent unit.

## Function of LAD

A light aid detachment is attached to each of certain formations and units for the following purposes:

- To assist personnel of the parent unit in first echelon repair of its equipment, in so far as that repair is outside the capacity of the unit.
- To inspect unit equipment and supervise and advise on unit maintenance.
- To assist the unit in recovering its equipment when damaged or stranded.
- To assist liaison between the unit and second echelon workshops.

## Administration

An LAD will be regarded as an integral part of the unit to which it is attached. It is under the command of the commanding officer of the parent unit, to whom the EME is responsible as a company commander on all matters of general administration.

When the LAD is in charge of a WO, he will carry out theses duties so far as lies in his power, but matters which must be dealt with by an officer, as company commander, e.g. discipline, should in such cases normally be dealt with by the OC [officer commanding] headquarters company (or equivalent) of the parent unit.

On all technical matters (including technical training) the EME will be responsible to the CREME of the formation to which his unit belongs.

## Work Within The Capacity of LAD

### Repair Capacity of LAD

The repair "capacity" of an LAD (or any WORKSHOP unit) is a variable factor governed by:

- The ability of the personnel of the LAD (or WORKSHOP unit).
- The availability of repair equipment suitable for any particular job.
- The amount of work in hand, and the amount of work of high priority outstanding.
- The limits imposed by echelon repair schedules.
- The maximum period (specified in orders from formation HQ) which may be spent on any one repair job.
- The availability of stores for a repair which, given the stores, could be completed in the time allowed.

An LAD will normally only undertake work that can be started without delay and is within its capacity as defined above. The EME i/c LAD may at any time break this rule if:

- He receives orders to do so from the senior EME of his formation, OR
- He is satisfied, on his own responsibility, that the exigencies of the service justify his action, as, for example, if he becomes so separated from his second echelon workshop that by undertaking a normal second echelon repair he can put back into service vital equipment without, as a result, keeping out of service other equally vital equipment, the repair of which is within his capacity.

## Static Conditions

A unit or sub-unit requiring the services of the LAD will notify the LAD through channels specified for the unit or formation concerned. The notification should normally be verbal, and will include as exact a description as possible of the defect or the service required. A record will be kept by the LAD of work awaiting attention.

The EME will arrange inspection by LAD personnel of the defective item, to determine whether the work is within the capacity of the LAD or not, unless it is clear from the report that inspection is unnecessary. Whenever possible, the defective time will be brought to the LAD site for inspection, but will not be left there without the consent of the EME.

Should the work be within the capacity of the LAD, the EME will decide whether it is to be carried out at the location of the defective equipment, at the LAD site, or in unit lines, and will make arrangements accordingly.

Any vehicle, gun, or other major item of equipment taken to the LAD site for repair will be accompanied by the driver, gunner, or other men normally responsible for maintaining the equipment, (or the successor if the original man has become a casualty), and a receipt for the item will not be given by LAD. The man accompanying the equipment will be responsible for cleaning it before work is commenced by LAD, for assisting LAD personnel as required in working on that equipment, and for custody of the auxiliary equipment, such as tools, which accompanies the equipment.

For any minor item such as a battery, vehicle jack, or cooker, which does not justify being accompanied by a man from the unit, the LAD may, should the owning unit so desire, give a receipt, but in that case the EME will ensure that defects or deficiencies, other than those he has been asked to repair, are recorded on the receipt.

## Active Operations

Defective equipment beyond the capacity of unit personnel will, when possible, be brought to the LAD site and may be left there whether within the LADs capacity or not.

The LAD EME will arrange repair in situ if possible, or recovery to the LAD site, depending on the tactical situation, the nature of the defects, the facilities available, and the formation recovery plan.

The CO of the parent unit is responsible for keeping his LAD informed of areas in which it can work or recover without under risk of loss or men or equipment by enemy action.

Recovery by unit or LAD personnel will not normally be to a point further back than the LAD site. Collection from there is the responsibility of second echelon recovery personnel.

Where the work is beyond the scope or capacity of the LAD, the work will be submitted to the appropriate second echelon workshop on AFG 1045, which will state briefly but adequately the defects requiring attention.

The unit will notify the appropriate second echelon workshop unit. If the job can be accepted, the unit will, if possible, deliver the job to the second echelon workshop. If recovery is involved, that will normally be done by the second echelon unit that is responsible, though it may be done by the LAD by mutual arrangement when desirable, either to relieve the second echelon unit or to provide training for the LAD.

If the second echelon workshop unit is not in a position to accept the job at once, the owning unit must await further instruction from the workshop unit, which then becomes responsible for notifying the owning unit when the job can be accepted, or for arranging repair in other workshops or evacuation as may be necessary, or for notifying the senior EME of the formation so that he may arrange repair or evacuation.

The LAD will only undertake demolition of equipment when specific orders to that effect have been received from the OC of the parent unit or from formation HQ. The LAD will not be responsible for demolition of equipment other than that in its custody at the time.

## Light Aid Detachments – Equipment and Stores

### Custody and Use

The equipment and stores held by an LAD consist of the following items:

a) Items (other than expendable workshop stores) listed in the AFG 1098 [list of authorised equipment] appropriate to that LAD, whether issued automatically or only on demand (the latter applies to tools required only if the LAD has to deal with particular varieties of equipment).

b) Expendable workshop stores listed in the AFG 1098 for that LAD.

c) Items (not in AFG 1098) issued to the LAD for maintenance of its own equipment (e.g. first aid kits for LAD vehicles).

d) Some of the items (not in AFG 1098) issued to unit and LAD for maintenance of the parent unit's equipment.

The whole of the equipment and stores of an LAD will be held on charge by the parent unit, and will be accounted for by that unit under current instructions. The EME will be responsible to the CO of the parent unit for the custody and maintenance of the items noted above.

The vehicles of the LAD will be used on LAD duties only, and will not be used as part of the transport of the parent unit. Other items covered by para (a) and (c) above will normally be used by LAD personnel only, and will not by used by personnel of the parent unit without permission of the LAD EME.

All the stores not shown in the AFG 1098 for the unit or the LAD, but issued to either for the maintenance of the equipment of the parent unit, will be treated as a pool for the joint use of the unit and LAD. Part will be carried in unit vehicles, and part will be carried in LAD vehicles, the division being determined by OC parent unit in consultation with the EME i/c [in command] LAD. Expendable stores shown in the AFG 1098 for the LAD will remain with the LAD.

The LAD storeman will not (unless specially authorized by EME or Armament Artificer) issue stores (unless expendable) to a job without first receiving the corresponding unserviceable item. If the item is missing from the equipment as received, a note will be made in the work record and the equipment logbook. Replaced items will be sent for repair, and scrap will be disposed of in accordance with current instructions on salvage.

## Method of Obtaining Stores

In general, the responsibility for obtaining equipment or stores rests with the unit quartermaster, but the LAD EME is responsible for letting the quartermaster know what he requires. The quartermaster will deal with accounting and correspondence on indents.

# Duties of the EME In Charge of an LAD (or equivalent)

## General

The duties of the EME in charge of an LAD are basically those of any EME in command of a workshop unit, but are modified by the following facts:

- He is not a "commanding officer" within the terms of King's Regulations.
- His LAD is regarded as an integral part of the non-REME unit to which it is attached.

## Responsibilities

The responsibility of the EME i/c LAD has two major aspects:

- To the officer commanding the parent unit for the general administration of the LAD and for service on its tactical handling. The EME will take his orders from the CO of the unit and will have direct access to him.
- To the CREME of the formation to which the unit belongs on all technical matters (including technical training), and for the regimental training of the LAD personnel.

## Duties

### Unit Equipment

He will be the technical adviser to the commanding officer and other unit officers on all matters affecting the maintenance of the unit's equipment. He will assist unit personnel in the first echelon repair of their equipment, and will exercise general supervision of unit maintenance and repair work. He will supervise the modification of unit equipment in accordance with War Office instructions, giving any assistance as required by the instructions, and in any other way his facilities permit. He will, on behalf of the CO, make periodic inspections of unit equipment, and he will report his findings to the CO, drawing particular attention of any case of apparent neglect or misuse.

# General Principles Governing the Operation of REME Units

## Location and Protection of Workshops

A workshop should be sufficiently near to the formation headquarters from which it is directly controlled to permit easy control by DR [dispatch rider] communication, and it must also be reasonably near the units that it serves in order to obtain efficient working. These considerations necessitate the workshop being located in its formation area. Generally the best position is in the rear of this area, although if wide flanking movements by the enemy are likely, it is best to have the workshop more forward and possible inside a defended locality.

Workshop units cannot repair, move, and fight simultaneously. While doing productive work, they must be stationary and protected from enemy interference. It is the responsibility of the general staff to arrange that workshops are so placed that, not only can equipment casualties be easily reached, but that workshops get the maximum protection from the disposition of other units, and can be given quick support when necessary. REME units, in common with all other units, are responsible for their own local protection against casual air and ground attack by small hostile parties, but their weapons and training are such that they should never be expected to repel any such attack in force. The neighbourhood of important targets, such as road junctions, cross roads, air field, ammunition dumps, railway yards, etc., should be avoided when reconnoitring an allotted area to select a site for a workshop.

Highly trained technical personnel and equipment cannot be easily replaced. A good tradesman who is quick at diagnosing and repairing faults of damaged equipment requires several years to train to that standard. The establishments of these tradesmen are very small and the demands for them are very great. As a general rule, it is very much easier to replace damaged equipment by new, than it is to replace casualties to such personnel. It is therefore essential that parent units and formation staffs do not unduly expose their LADs and workshop units to unnecessary danger.

## Working Periods of Workshop Personnel

Technical personnel, as much as any other, require definite periods of rest. Establishments and transport do not allow for the technical equipment being operated continually at full output. The alternate shift method cannot be adopted for repair personnel, since sufficient of these tradesmen to produce two full shifts are not available. Further, although no work is done during a move, the rest obtainable by personnel during a move is negligible. It must also be remembered that the quality of technical work as regards accuracy decreases rapidly with the fatigue of the technical personnel, especially as regards work that is of a non-repetitive nature such as repair. A state is soon reached when more work will be obtained by closing down completely for several hours, than if the men are kept on their jobs without rest. Where large numbers of casualties have to be recovered, it is sometimes possible to arrange shifts of drivers for the recovery vehicles by using drivers of the other workshop vehicles. This method of working can only be used if arrangements can be made for the drivers on each shift to get sufficient rest before any move of the complete workshop is required.

Since all technical work requires light, and blackout is difficult to arrange under field conditions, it is advisable for rest periods to be taken during the hours of darkness.

When operations that will occupy several weeks are contemplated, it may be necessary to arrange with the base workshop for periodical exchange of a proportion of the personnel in the field, in order that all obtain their minimum requirements of rest.

## Stores

Repair work, as distinct from recovery work, in the field is practically entirely dependent upon having the necessary expendable stores and spare parts of the correct type available. Very little manufacture of parts can be undertaken in the forward theatres of operations. For this reason, when workshop units are moved, it must be ensured that their new locations are not too far removed from their source of supplies of spare parts of the correct type.

Little difficulty occurs in moving second echelon workshops over moderately short distances.

When operations involving long moves by formations take place, the amount of repair work completed by a workshop is limited by its supply of spare parts and assemblies. A workshop will start operations with an initial stock in its store-holding section. During the operation, assemblies and some stores used from this stock will be replaced by others from the Corps Ordnance Field Park, but certain stores will have to be obtained from the Base Ordnance Depot as a result of specific demands.

It is essential to see that the supply of parts remains adequate during operations, and it will fail if the distance between the workshop and the field park supplying it becomes excessive. For this reason the field park will have to be moved forward to keep pace with the workshop or workshops that it feeds.

In extreme cases it will be necessary to make special arrangement for the supply of stores from the base to the field park, and possibly to workshops and units direct. Such special arrangements for the restocking of units and workshops may take the form of either special motor convoys, or supply by air to neighbouring landing grounds.

It should be noted that, if a casualty to an equipment occurs and the spare required is not available at the time, the casualty is not likely to be repaired by its formation workshop, if the formation is still moving rapidly. It is therefore essential to begin an operation with all units, workshops, and the field parks fully stocked with a good selection of spares.

For various reasons, the supply of spare parts and assemblies may fail. When this occurs, and when there is a high degree of operational necessity to repair casualties, the supply of spares can be temporarily increased by the cannibalization of serious casualties. Such an expedient, however, should only be adopted under exceptional circumstances, and when resorted to, very careful selection of the casualty or casualties to be cannibalized should be made. The first casualties to be cannibalized should be those that can only be repaired in base workshops, and thus could not under any circumstances be made fit to take part in current operations. The next casualties to be taken for cannibalization should be those that will require very considerable time to repair after the stores become available.

Cannibalization must, at all times, be strictly controlled and centralized to obtain full value, since an equipment which has been cannibalized is unlikely to be repaired for a long time, if ever. All cannibalization should be carried out under strict workshop control.

## Movement of Workshops

The repair of equipment must cease in a workshop while that workshop or portion of the workshop moves. Thus, moves of workshop sites must be as few as possible, and this involves a considerable amount of intelligent anticipation of the future tactical situation, which can only be obtained by close liaison between the REME and "G" staffs of the formation.

It is essential that as much notice as possible should be given to a workshop when its move is contemplated. The workshop unit has not only to pack up and carry out a reconnaissance of its new location, but it has also to make arrangements for the disposal of work in hand, and outstanding jobs still to be dealt with. Some of this work may be evacuated to a railhead, some may be completed if nearly finished, some may be taken with the unit to the new location, and some may have to be left behind. The shorter the warning, the more jobs will have to be left behind. This work will have to be reported through formation headquarters to the REME staff at the higher formation for them to arrange disposal. As far as possible, equipment in second echelon workshops should be kept in a towable state to facilitate removal, e.g. if a vehicle has a damaged back axle, but is towable with that axle, the axle should not be removed from the vehicle until a replacement axle is available. The actual time required by a workshop to become ready to move will depend upon the amount of work in hand, and the time required to complete or evacuate it. In emergencies, and if the work is left behind, a well-trained workshop unit should be able to close down from full operation in about three hours.

A second echelon workshop unit should be able to accept work from the moment it arrives at its site, provided a careful reconnaissance has been made of the site by the advance party. To be able to start work immediately on arrival means careful organization and loading, so that hand tools for the more important tradesmen can be unloaded first. It should be possible to get workshop into full operation within about three hours of arrival.

## Casualty Reporting

Until a REME unit is informed that an equipment is damaged, it can take no action to repair it. Workshop units are not provided with personnel and vehicles to search for unspecified casualties over wide areas. Their personnel and vehicles are provided to deal with casualties to equipment whose location has been previously ascertained and reported to the workshop unit.

The responsibility for reporting a casualty to an equipment is that of the unit to which the casualty belongs. Units are responsible for the transmission, through normal signal channels of casualty messages. REME personnel and REME units are not responsible for the transmission of casualty messages, but may duplicate them where desirable and possible through their own channels or communication.

The staff at formation headquarters must determine the degree of urgency or recovery, and must give recovery messages an adequate degree of priority. If the staff will not allot a suitable degree of priority to recovery messages, they must accept the fact that repair and recovery work will be slowed up.

The headquarters from which REME officers control the movements of recovery vehicles must be the centre to which casualty reports are forwarded for action, e.g. if the recovery vehicles are located and moved by the REME staff at divisional headquarters, recovery messages must be forwarded to them. If this is not done, a sudden move of the location of the recovery vehicles will mean that it will take many hours before the change in their location is known to individual units, unit EMEs, and MT [unit mechanical transport] officers.

## Diagram of Repair and Recovery Organization in the Field

[The legend mentioned on the diagram is reproduced below].

Letters with numerical sequences indicate workshop sections.

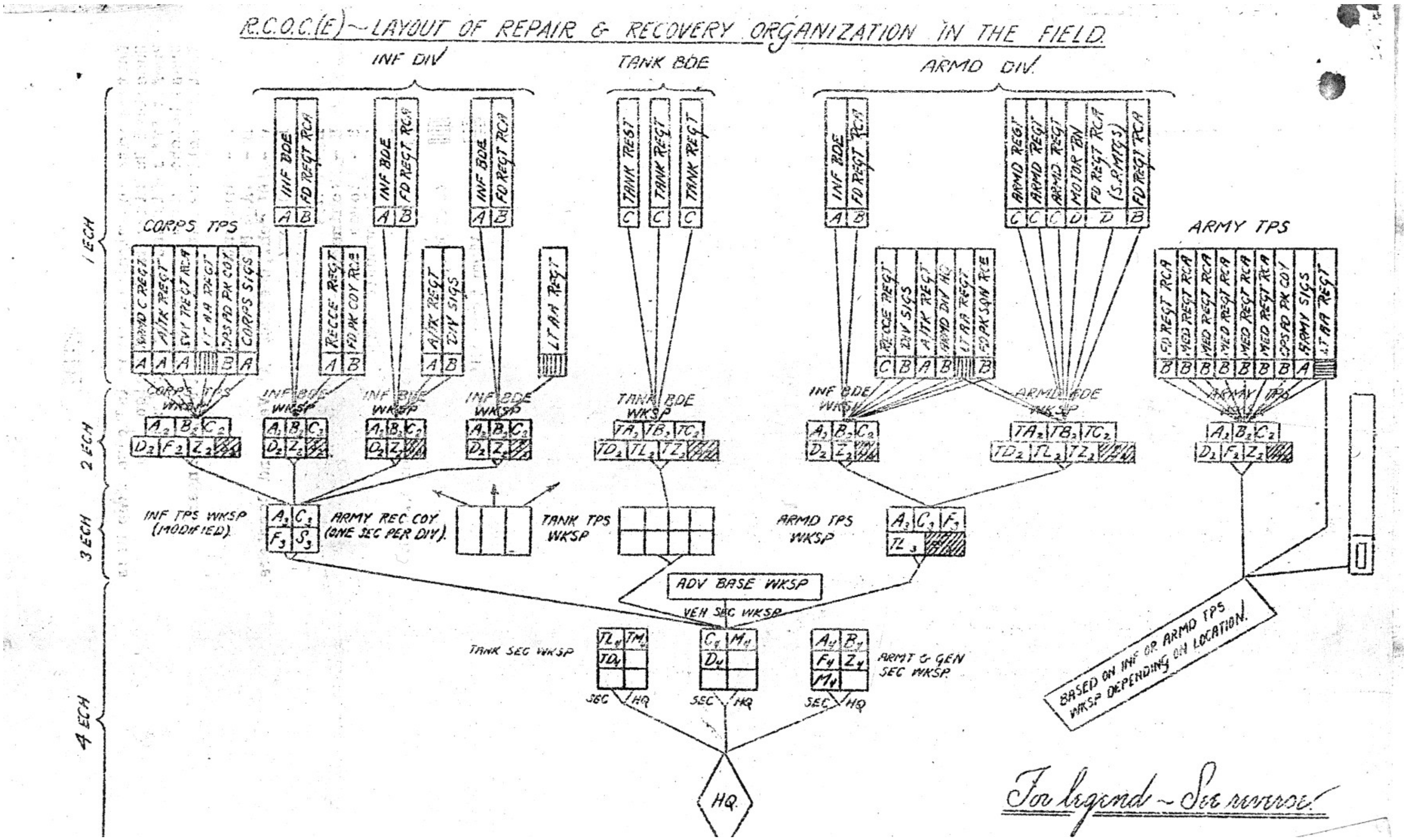
Numerical suffixes indicate echelons.

Prefix “T” indicates section for armoured units.

Crosshatched sections are RCOC.

Section letters have the following meanings:

A – Armaments
B – Small arms and machine guns
C – “B” vehicles, wheeled vehicles, “A” vehicles and carriers
D – Recovery
F – Instruments
L – Tanks
M – Machinery
S – Stores
Z – Telecommunications
Square with letter inside – indicates type of LAD
Square with vertical lines – Light anti-aircraft workshop, type “A”
Square with horizontal lines – Light anti-aircraft workshop, type “B”



For legend – See reverse.